

1 1. (amended) An air decontamination system, comprising
2 a sealed area having an air inlet;
3 a vacuum unit which creates a negative pressure within said
4 area, by suctioning air through the air inlet into said area and then from said area into
5 an inlet of said vacuum unit;
6 a work surface disposed in said sealed area, said air being
7 suctioned downwardly through said work surface; and
8 a filter unit which filters air as said air is drawn out of the area.

1 15. (amended) A method for removing contaminants from air in a sealed mail
2 processing area, comprising:
3 introducing an item of mail onto a work surface in the mail
4 processing area;
5 creating a downward flow of air within said area, said
6 downward flow of air transporting contaminants from said item of mail into an inlet
7 of a vacuum unit which created said downward flow of air;
8 said downward flow of air traveling through said work surface
9 disposed in said area; and
10 filtering the air after said vacuum unit has caused the
11 downward flow of air to pass through said work surface to remove said contaminants.